

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I think it's an absolute shame that the Sinclair Corporation is abusing the privileges bestowed on them by the American people to engage in purely one sided and unfair political activity in showing the Anti-Kerry video at during prime time. While it is the responsibility of the media to cover "news", this event is certainly not news in the common usage of the word but is in fact, politics in its rankest form. The FCC has a obligation to protect fairness in the media and should act to protect the public interest.

William J. Hill